

## Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10 /081 W

----- 045647

R 060844Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5852

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1466

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG, XF

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PLANS FO RESETTLEMENT OF GAZA  
REFUGEES

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. DEFMIN PERES BRIEFED CABINET MARCH 2 ON DEFENSE MINISTRY  
PLAN FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROJECTS IN GAZA STRIP DURING  
1975. ACCORDING GOI PROESS OFFICE" BACKGROUND PAPER," PLANS  
FOR COMING YEAR CALL FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BETWEEN 1500 AND 2000  
ADDITIONAL HOUSING UNITS, ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AND  
UPGRADING OF UTILITIES. THESE UNITS WOULD BE ADDED TO 1500  
DWELLINGS BUILT OVER PAST THREE YEARS.(PRESS OFFICE PAPER DID  
NOT GO INTO FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF PLAN, BUT PREVIOUS PRESS SPECU-  
LATION ESTIMATE ITS COST AT IL 125 MILLION).

2. PRESS OFFICE PAPER ADDS THAT DEFENSE MINISTRY CONSIDERED  
1975 PROJES AS INTRIM MEASURS PENDING INTIWION OF LONG-  
TEM PLANS,REPORTEDLY OVER 6-7 YEAR PERIOD, TO BUILD NINETEEN  
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NEW RESETTELEMTN PROJECTS IN GAZA STRIP.

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3. COMMENT: OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEFENSE MINISTRY'S LONG-TERM PLANS FOR GAZA REFUGEES PROVIDES ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE THAT ISRAEL IS NOT PLANNING TO RELINQUISH GAZA IN NEAR FUTURE. ISRAELIS HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY HAVE HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN FINDING RESIDENTS FOR ADDITIONAL DWELLINGS THEY HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTING IN GAZA AREA AND EMBOFFS HAVE CONFIRMED THAT NEW HOUSING HAS BEEN OCCUPIED FAIRLY SOON AFTER CONSTRUCTION. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS RESETTLEMENT IDEA HAS CAUGHT ON WITH REFUGEES THEMSELVES, EVEN IF IDEA OF "SOLVING REFUGEE PROBLEMS" BY REHOUSING THEM NEAR REFUGEE CENTERS REMAINS AN ATHEMA TO MANY ARABS.

4. MFA OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR OCCUPIED TERRITORIES TOLD US MARCH 4 THAT IF FUNDS PERMITTED, GOI IS CONVINCED THEY COULD VIRTUALLY CLOSE REFUGEE CAMPS IN GAZA EVEN MORE QUICKLY THAN PLAN PROPOSES. MIL GOVT OFFICIALS ON SCENE HAVE ALSO TOLD US THEY WOULD LIKE TO BE MOVING FASTER WITH RESETTLEMENT EFFORT THAN BUDGETS HAVE ALLOWED. SHOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT LATEST UNRWA FIGURES SHOW 34,000 FAMILIES LIVING IN CAMPS IN GAZA. RESETTLEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL PERCENTAGE OF THESE, EVEN IF FUNDS CONTINUE TO PERMIT CONSTRUCTION OF 2,000 UNITS PER YEAR, WOULD BE LONG-TERM PROPOSITION.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GAZA STRIP, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, CONSTRUCTION  
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